

August 12 Board Meeting

*Held at District Office
Tuesday, August 12, 2014*

Members present

Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

Others present

Superintendent Wright, Clayton Holt, Kit Mantz, Eva Workman, Ron Nielson

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM

A. Approval of Agenda - 3:00 p.m.

1. Board Meeting Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the Board Meeting Agenda

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Elsie Dee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

B. Board Closed Session

1. Personnel

There were no items to discuss. Closed Session was not held.

C. Reports and Presentations - 4:00 p.m.

1. Technology Report - Josh Decker

Josh Decker, Technology Director, shared a pilot plan for the I.T.T. (Instructional Technology Team) and the kickoff of the Pilot Team for the 1:1 technology initiative in classrooms. With some redistribution of administrative tasks to John Fahey, Mr. Decker is freeing up more of his day to focus on Instructional Technology. This change is very helpful and will allow him to invest more time in the pilot project.

Clayton Holt commented that the pilot program is an opportunity to develop a self-initiated program, no grants, no strings attached. The goals and outcome are in the hands of the District and those who participate. This is a very costly but beneficial program that could have great impact as it grows.

Mr. Decker commented on the selection process for the pilot program and response from the staff and parents whose students who are not in the program. The hope is that the success of the program will show a demand and it will become a growing program that will be implemented

districtwide as it develops. Mr. Decker also commented that this concept has been exciting for the instructors who participate as it gives them some opportunities to exercise some curriculum creativity and initiative which is something many have felt has been taken from classrooms over the past few years due to mandates and standardization.

Board Member Merri Shumway commented that it may be beneficial for administrators and Board Members to visit the classrooms utilizing the 1:1 pilot program and watch the instruction and response from the classroom. Mrs. Shumway also recommended that the Board receive ongoing reports from the I.T.T. in upcoming meetings.

In conclusion, Mr. Decker stated his enthusiasm for the 1:1 pilot program and the way it encourages students and teachers to not just consume technology, but use it to "create and learn."

Board president Bill Boyle thanked Mr. Decker and his team for his report and their efforts in launching the 1:1 pilot program.

D. Board Work Session

1. Capital Projects

Clayton Holt commented that summer projects are quickly being completed for the start of school. He noted several projects that are near completion, including: housing in Monument Valley, improvements on the mechanical system and fire alarm system in Montezuma Creek Elementary, the concession stand and intercom system at Whitehorse High School, security camera systems in Monticello schools and La Sal, the kitchen at Monticello High School, as well as painting at various locations in housing and schools and paving completed at various sites.

Mr. Holt stated that the biggest project this summer was the new Monticello Elementary School. He also reported that the interior of the building is ready for students while the exterior and grounds are still being worked on.

Nelson Yellowman requested an update on how many site pads were left for housing in Monument Valley. Clayton Holt commented that 14 lots were developed and 9 units were constructed. Mr. Yellowman inquired if San Juan School District had considered working with Navajo Housing Authority as they have had several construction projects throughout our district boundaries and that there could be some assistance from the Navajo Housing Authority on future developments where the Navajo Tribe may be involved. Mr. Holt stated that he is very interested in working with the contact from the Navajo Housing Authority as it has been difficult in the past to maneuver the requirements necessary to progress with the associated agencies.

Mr. Holt confirmed that all housing units are currently full, except in Halchita where 4 of the 6 units are filled. He also stated that the principal at TES has requested space for interns in Halchita, so the two units that remain may be used for that request.

Superintendent Wright presented a document from Colby Davis that has been used as a rough draft of a time-line for prioritizing the projects. The Superintendent requested that Board

Members give their recommendation of what the Board would like to see prioritized. Superintendent Wright suggested the following more pressing projects: 1) Land purchase in Bluff. 2) Preliminary work necessary for obtaining a lease to construct a gymnasium next to Montezuma Creek Elementary School, 3) Begin plans for the renovation of Albert R. Lyman. Superintendent Wright outlined a general timeline by year in an effort to space out projects so they are more manageable for the Building and Grounds staff, timing such that there is minimal impact on instruction, and completing the projects as to not deplete funds.

Board Member Elsie Dee commented that she would like to see the gymnasium completion in Montezuma Creek more of a priority and noted that community members in Montezuma Creek have also commented on the urgency of completing a gymnasium for the Montezuma Creek Elementary School.

Board Vice-President Debbie Christiansen commented that purchasing property in Bluff would solidify to the community the School District's intentions to progress with plans on a new school. Board Member Merri Shumway recused herself from discussion regarding land purchase in Bluff because of possible perception of personal conflict of interest.

2. Preparation for 2014-2015 School Year

Kit Mantz commented on the timing for recruiting and the impact that the Early Resignation bonus has made to help identify shortfalls in a timely way. Mr. Mantz noted that a great number of successful recruiting efforts this year were made via email recruiting. He stated that for the most part the schools are fully staffed and that he will be busy the next few weeks helping new teachers complete licensure requirements. He also mentioned that complications with certification acceptance in the state of Utah due to sub-standard programs from nearby out of state institutions has created more hurdles, and that in general certification courses are costing more money which is also a difficult for many prospective teachers.

3. University of Virginia Partnership for Leadership in Education

Superintendent Wright updated the Board Members on the District involvement with the University of Virginia Partnership for Leaders in Education. The Utah State Office of Education (USOE) believes that the program has shown success and is worth the substantial investment and has urged the District to participate. It was noted that there are many changes going on at USOE and they may impact the State's commitment to the University of Virginia Program.

E. Public Session-Welcome and Recognition of Guests - 6:00 p.m.

1. Citizens' Comments

Board President welcomed guests/parents.

Mandy Warner and Monica Jacobsen commented on concerns regarding what they feel was an unauthorized field trip that occurred in May 2014 at Blanding Elementary School. They felt it

was a school safety issue and questioned the value of the experience for students. Mandy Warner requested a private meeting to discuss specific questions. Board President Bill Boyle recommended that the specific questions be addressed in a private meeting with the Superintendent. Superintendent Wright agreed to set up a meeting with the concerned parents.

Merri Shumway stated that the questions, if worded generally could be shared. Mandy Warner shared her specific questions in a general context. Superintendent Wright stated that this issue was addressed in the spring and discussions are continuing. Superintendent Wright's office will research the specific policy and procedures regarding field trips and be prepared to meet with Mandy Warner and other parents who would like to be involved in the near future.

Sharon Stryker encouraged the Board Members to consider observing Veteran's Day, specifically on the reservation. Sharon shared her frustration regarding correspondence with Human Resources, benefits coordination and insurance agencies with her insurance coverage. Sharon noted that Board Member travel seemed to single out specific board members unfairly and appeared to be discriminatory. Finally, Sharon inquired as to the impact the ACT scores and University of Virginia evaluations would have on teacher evaluations in Monument Valley. In response, Board President Bill Boyle noted that Veteran's Day will be honored on the 2015 academic calendar, and will be celebrated in Monument Valley with the Board's participation in 2014. Board Vice President Debbie Christiansen explained in detail how the board travel is documented and reimbursed, distances traveled and the reason other members are not reimbursed. Superintendent Wright explained that the ACT Scores will not be used in completing teacher evaluations.

Helen Myerson stated concerns regarding the Presidential Forum in Monument Valley and her perceived shortcomings. Superintendent Wright was present for the forum and explained in detail the reasons for the organizational shortcomings by the forum organizers that caused the issues. Helen also commented that her granddaughter needs special attention. Superintendent Wright will get the student's personal information and follow up with Helen. Helen also voiced her support of increased recognition of Veteran's Day district-wide.

F. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes

2. Revenue Reports

3. Expenditure Reports

4. School Expenditure Reports

5. Board Travel Reports

Board Member Merri Shumway attended USBA Delegate Assembly and will report in the September 2014 Board Meeting.

Board Members Elsie Dee and Nelson Yellowman attended the Native American Summit in Orem, in July 2014. Nelson Yellowman reported there were no major education issues brought

up in this summit and there is a possibility the Utah Navajos will be the host agency for the summit in 2015.

6. Personnel Report(s) and Information

7. Home School Requests

8. Student Hearings

9. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items

Motion to approve all consent agenda items.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

G. Action Items

1. Board Travel Requests

No travel requests were made at this time.

2. Board Travel Allocations

A recommendation was made that the School District formulate a more structured list of Board travel requirements and costs and allocate a specific amount to each Board Member. Board travel requests would still be presented at meetings, but would also reflect expenses in a more focused way to increase efficiency and selection of travel needs and requests. Meetings that are listed as priority for board representation include: board meetings, USBA regional meetings, graduations, USBA conference, Governor's Native American Summit, Johnson O'Malley responsibilities, etc.

The Board requested that the District administration create an estimated budget and present the figures to the Board to work with and to make an opportunity for public input.

3. Policy 4315 Reporting

A few minor changes to the draft, motion to approve on 1st reading.

Motion to pass Policy 4315 on a first reading basis.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Merri B Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

4. Policy 4330 Evaluation

Did not discuss. Motion to adopt the agenda removed this item from the agenda.

5. Policy 4540 Extra-Curricular

Policy 4540 was considered on a 2nd reading basis. The proposed policy is intended to provide clarification regarding which District positions are eligible for coaching responsibilities.

Motion to pass Policy 4540 Extra Curricular Activities on a 2nd reading basis.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

Nay: Bill Boyle

6. Capital Projects

Board Member Merri Shumway would like the record to reflect that she will abstain from voting and discussing this action item due to possible conflict of interest regarding land availability in the Bluff area.

Motion that the Board gives the District Administration permission to pursue a land purchase in Bluff for possible new school, land for Montezuma Creek possible gymnasium, and to further adjust the proposed capital project plan as needed.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Elsie A Dee.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee

Abstain: Merri B Shumway

7. Resolution on designation of the Greater Canyonlands National Monument

Along with the backing from the School District, Nelson Yellowman suggested that Mrs. Shumway join him in bringing these concerns to the Utah Chapters on the Navajo Reservation. Water rights, hunting, wood hauling would all be restricted off of designated areas and this proposes both a geographical tax revenue threat to the District as well as a livelihood threat to all those who use or travel in the proposed designated areas. After discussion, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to draft a Resolution on the basis of Mrs. Shumway's proposal.

Motion to authorize the Superintendent to create and send a resolution to President Obama opposing designation of the Greater Canyonlands National Monument.

Motion by Merri B Shumway, second by Debbie Christiansen.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

H. Discussion Items

1. November Board Meeting - Veteran's Day

The calendar for Board Meetings shows we have scheduled the meeting in Monument Valley on Veteran's Day. This could create a conflict in schedules. It will be up to the Board to determine whether to hold Board Meeting or cancel the meeting.

The Board Members determined that it would be a good day to share in the community events being held for Veteran's Day and participate as much as possible.

2. ACT Report

Superintendent Wright stated that the ACT report arrived this morning showing the information from the graduating class and shows trends for scores in our school district. In summary, the baseline was established in 2012 and scores from the previous years were collected. Two years ago the scores were lower, and this past year the trend shows some improvement in scores. The detail on this report will follow shortly and be presented to the Board at the next board meeting.

3. Home School Correspondence Updates

Superintendent Wright commented on new changes to the law which governs home school requests. In summary, parents are no longer required to indicate that they will teach the full curriculum, nor are they are required to notify us every year. Instead, after the parents or guardians have made an initial request, it has now become the School District's obligation to communicate with the parent/guardian each subsequent school year authorizing the home school student. Another change was that it will now be required for the Home School Request form to be notarized. Eva Workman has created the updated documents for the School District and we are prepared to comply with the updates.

4. Recognition

Clayton Long received the Governor's Award at the annual Governor's Native American Summit held July 30-31, 2014 at Utah Valley University in Orem..

I. Adjournment

1. Next Meeting, Adjournment

The next Board Meeting will be held in Monticello in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the new Monticello Elementary School. Board meeting will be scheduled so that board members can attend both the meeting and open house.